

SAPC 7492  
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2 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT : Visit to Ranch

1. During my recent stay at the Watertown site, several things came to my attention that I should like to point out.

A. [redacted] of course, belabored the point all over again concerning his physical condition. This discussion took place every day of my visit. On the last day, just as I was departing, he apologized to me for his actions and we more or less made our peace.

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B. [redacted] is attempting to utilize my medical personnel as relief operations personnel. He is basing his action on the excuse that he feels that my personnel do not have enough to do and that he has seen some of them sitting down. He does not take into consideration several factors: (1) That they must attend to every mission, at any hour that it is flown. This has meant that some of my people have been working upwards some weeks of 80 hours and even as high as 115 hours. It is granted that they had a few hours between flights during which they do sit down to repair equipment, etc. (2) It is not proper in actuality for my personnel to take the responsibility for flight plan filing, etc. They are not trained for the job except by their own interest which has led each one of them to learn how to operate the equipment. This was done by them to help out the only operations sergeant there who is their personal friend. They also did it as an expression of their interest in assisting in any work that is needed on the base. In the past when there was no personnel in the section, I have even done it myself. But when it comes to pulling my people out of their own section and putting them on a shift as an operator with full responsibility, I do draw the line.

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C. There is still a poor organization as far as mission planning is concerned. Since no mission can be flown unless my people take the first action, we are completely involved. However, one evening [redacted] announced at about 2000 hours that there would be three or four missions flown directly after midnight. My personnel got up about 0100 hours and went to their duty stations and waited. At about 0130 hours it was announced that the missions were cancelled. This is an ordinary occurrence and has long been a thorn in the side for all.

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D. On the whole, I believe that morale has shown an enormous upswing. It is quite obvious that my previous comments on the personal feud between Detachment "A" Commander and Watertown Commander upsetting the entire base operations was true and the situation now seems to be in hand. However, there are several small things which I feel should be brought out. The movies are worse than ever. Food, is excellent, but there were a few things which I felt could be improved further and these were discussed with the camp manager and will be changed. There were quite a number of complaints about the beer situation. The camp manager apparently made a "deal" with someone for an excess amount of inferior beer. This

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beer under ordinary conditions sold at about the rate of 4 cans to 8 cans of other beer. The manager then shut off completely the supply of all first rate beers, and the bases are now stocked with only the inferior. This group of personnel are in the position of being "captive", and I feel that it is unfair. This was discussed with [redacted] who agreed. The next day other beer was added to the box, but the camp manager apparently "got" to the Colonel and when I left the site, there was still only inferior beers available.

2. There were many other small problems encountered. Most of these have already been ironed out, and others have been referred to MFS and other sections for coordination. Because of the press of the duties for both the doctors during the period of my visit, we were unable to let them go to Albuquerque. Since the final group of pilots will be going through Lovelace on the 9th of July, I am planning at their urgent request to return to Watertown and stay through next week.

3. I should like to bring to your special attention [redacted] For the work he did during the time that I was present at the base, I had occasion to write a letter of commendation and appreciation concerning both his superior duty performance and the fact that he is so much a part of the base that he is literally a morale factor. He has an amazing personality, never upset, always completely generous with his time and energies and assists anyone and everyone with the cheeriest attitude. He works over-long hours and rarely takes time off. If this is done in the LA area, he wouldn't take more than a day. I would like to suggest that he be ordered into headquarters here and then sent for a week or so to Becton area which is his home. I feel that this would be the greatest thing we could do for him, and I sincerely believe that we owe it to him.

[redacted]  
PCS/DCI/GRS/ccc

[redacted]  
Lt. Col., USAF

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